

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. It is acknowledged that the amendments are submitted after final rejection. However, because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance, without introducing new matter or raising new issues, entry thereof is earnestly requested.

The Advisory Action indicated that claims 43 and 49-51 are allowed, but maintained rejections of claims 36-42 and 47-48. To obtain issuance of the allowed claims, therefore, Applicants are canceling the claims under rejection. Applicants do so without acquiescing to the propriety of any rejection, and reserve the right to pursue canceled subject matter in a continuing application.

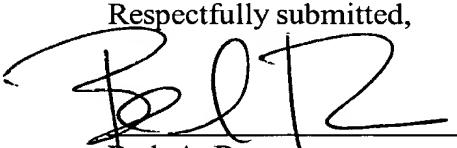
The application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration thereof is earnestly requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

2/6/04

Date:

Respectfully submitted,


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